

served our country during World War II, then he returned to his native Huntsville. To our community's great benefit, he devoted his considerable talent to the development of business, military, and non-profit interests of our area.

He has served on a long and distinguished list of civic and business organizations, including service as past president of the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Huntsville Rotary Club, and past president of the Huntsville-Madison County Industrial Development Association.

He has received many awards and honors for his work, including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alabama and the Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Speaker, speaking as a native Huntsvillian and a military veteran, I offer special thanks to Mr. Halsey for his service as chairman of the Huntsville Army Advisory Committee in building Redstone Arsenal into the world-class institution it is today.

As the congressman for Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, it is an honor for me to have this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Halsey for being chosen for this year's Humanitarian Award and commend him for his lifetime of dedication to our community-at-large.

#### INTRODUCTION OF COALBED METHANE LEGISLATION

#### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 1998*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill which is of vital importance to my State of Wyoming as well as a number of other Western states, including Colorado, North Dakota, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah.

As some of my colleagues may be aware, on July 20 of this year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit reversed a lower court ruling that had affirmed the rights of landowners in the production of coal bed methane (CBM). The Appeals Court decision in the case of Southern Ute Tribe v. Amoco Production Company asserts that CBM is part of the local rather than a separate natural resource.

The ruling contradicts two previous U.S. Interior Department Solicitor General opinions that provided the legal basis for large-scale investment in CBM development and production in Wyoming and the other states mentioned previously.

Based on these opinions, numerous private citizens and corporations entered into lease and royalty agreements to develop CBM. Now thousands of small landowners face the risk of losing their royalties, which could lead to mortgage defaults and losses of retirement savings. Additionally, CBM producers face risks to their long-term investments. Delays in drilling caused by this ruling will also impact state and local economies and tax revenues and deter the production of a domestic clean burning fuel—coal bed methane.

In order to protect the rights of landowners and lessees, I am today introducing a bill which will ensure the validity of existing lease and royalty contracts. This legislation simply

states that all contracts entered into prior to the date of enactment of the bill are legal and valid. The legislation would do nothing with regard to any future contracts nor would it negate the rights of any recognized Indian Tribe.

My colleagues in the Senate, Messrs. THOMAS and ENZI, are introducing an identical measure in that body. I also intend to add this language to the Omnibus Parks bill which the House may consider in the very near future.

I commend this legislation to everyone in this chamber and encourage their support of it.

#### TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR KENNETH NORRIS

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 1998*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a leader in environmental protection, an author and scientist of the first order, and a teacher who has left a lasting legacy. Professor Kenneth Norris died August 16, 1998.

Ken Norris received his bachelor's and master's degrees in zoology from University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). While studying for his doctorate, Ken was hired as founding curator at Marineland of the Pacific. It was there that Ken made discoveries that formed the basis for his pioneering studies of marine mammals, and the echolocation by which dolphins navigate, communicate, and investigate their watery world.

In 1959 Ken received his doctorate from Scripps Institute of Oceanography, his doctoral dissertation winning an award from the Ecological Society of America. Ken returned to UCLA to teach herpetology and to research desert reptiles. However, Ken was lured back to the ocean when offered the position of founding scientific director for the Oceanic Institute, in which he served from 1968 to 1971. As a scientific advisor to the United States Marine Mammal Commission, Ken helped to write the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. It was in that year that he came to University of California, Santa Cruz to serve as director of the Center for Coastal Marine Studies. While in that position, Ken worked with others to develop the UC-Santa Cruz Joseph M. Long Marine Laboratory. Also in 1972, Ken created the UC Natural Reserve System which protects 120,000 acres of natural habitat throughout California. From 1977 to 1979, Ken chaired the environmental studies department at UC-Santa Cruz, teaching his popular and rigorous "Field Quarter" class which covered that natural history of California from the deserts to the forests, communicating his keen interest in ecological systems, and in rigorous scientific inquiry. Ken founded the Environmental Field Program which continues to support undergraduate research. He was a popular professor, whose ability to inspire respect for the environment spread well beyond his classroom through the host of his former students who carry his work forward. Ken retired in 1990.

Ken attained international recognition for the many ways he engendered support for the environment, especially his leadership in the world wide campaign to reduce the number of

dolphins caught in the nets of fishermen. In 1992, he received the John Burroughs Medal for his book "Dolphin Days: The Life and Times of the Spinner Dolphin." He was named "Man of the Year" by the American Cetacean Society in 1996, and was a recipient of the Academy of Sciences Fellows Medal in 1977.

Our hearts go out to his family, his wife, Phyllis; three daughters Susie, Nancy and Barbara; his son Richard; his brother Robert; and his six grandchildren.

Ken Norris has gone far beyond leaving the world a better place, he has taught each of us a lesson about our ongoing responsibilities to the planet.

RIA DEL BENE

#### HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 18, 1998*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

I opened Ria's Beauty Shop on Friday the thirteenth of May, 1938. We had the hurricane on Wednesday the twenty-first of September 1938. My friends said, "You had to open your shop so we could have a hurricane!" Fifty years later I still operate the shop, and the Hurricane of 1938 only proved the strength of the people of this area.

I remember that day so very well, when we all joked about the winds and the bad weather, and the excitement mounted because this was a new experience. Our immediate family—Grandma, Mom, Dad, my brother and I were already living on Sunset Avenue. I ran down the Main Street to look over the area behind the Weixlebaum Building, and I saw the water being drained out of the Moniebogue Canal. I thought it was so strange! Not being knowledgeable on tidal waves, I didn't realize that the water gets sucked out, then comes back in a tidal wave. The water started coming up over the meadows south of Main Street, so I ran across the street to Grimshaw building (where Norma Reynolds is now). I ran to the top step so I could see better.

I soon realized that things could be very dangerous, as Main Street was getting flooded. I ran home and watched the water flow past the back of our property like a river. That was the old "Toot" White property, where Ici Aussi, La Shack, Alfonso, and Westhampton Custom Floors and Rug shops are now. We watched on the corner of our property, as the wind picked up a large wild cherry tree, at least one hundred years old, pulled it up, roots and all, and then laid it on the ground like a huge bouquet. Only when the call went out for volunteers to rescue people, did we face the reality that this was a tragedy, not an adventure.

My brother, Dannie, was among the many young men who went, and unfortunately, it was not just rescue, it was recovering bodies. The Westhampton Country Club was a temporary morgue, and the bodies were brought in there. So many people that we knew and loved had lost their lives to stay with their homes, rather than to leave in time.

My brother and I were born in the old Platt Building (where the Hampton Chronicle was later housed, operated by John King for many years, now part of it is Magic's Pub). In 1922, we moved to the old Ben Owen house (no longer standing), next to Mike Parlato's Garage (now Marakesh). The part of Main Street is the lowest, and the flood water was six or seven feet high in all those buildings.